

XI International Eurasian Educational Research Congress

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS



XI INTERNATIONAL EURASIAN
EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH CONGRESS

EJERCONGRESS 2024
CONFERENCE
PROCEEDINGS

May 21-24, 2024/ Kocaeli University - Türkiye

Editor

Distinguished Professor Şenel POYRAZLI,
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Main Theme

“Designing the Future: Changing Paradigms and Transhumanism with Artificial Intelligence in Education”

Sub-Themes

- Academic freedom, autonomy, and social responsibility in education
- Artificial intelligence and educational applications
- Augmented reality applications
- Barriers to learning
- Blended learning
- Computer-assisted measurement and evaluation
- Core skill sets for students and teachers
- Design of school buildings in the future
- Designing and delivering a digital strategy
- Digital competence
- Digital parenting
- Distance Education
- Earthquake Education
- Post Earthquake Trauma Training
- Earthquake and Effective Psychosocial Intervention Methods
- Earthquake and Trauma
- The Impact of Earthquakes on School Staff
- Education and society
- Education for healthy living and healthy communities
- Education for a sustainable life
- Education in the digital age: Primary, secondary, high school, higher education, and application examples
- Educational leadership in the digital age
- Effects of regional differences on education
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Related to Marginalized Groups
- Emergency Management at Schools
- Evidence-Based School Counseling Services for Refugees and Marginalized Groups
- Globalisation and Education
- Higher education
- Innovative learning designs for student success
- Instructional technologies in the digital age
- Integration of immigrants into education
- K-12 education (preschool, primary, and secondary education)
- Learning management systems
- Lifelong learning
- Machine learning
- Management information system
- Managing schools
- Measurement and evaluation of students’ learning outcomes
- Metaverse
- Migration and education
- Multicultural Classroom Concerns of Educators and Parents
- New educational system after COVID-19
- New skills to live and work in new times
- New technologies in teaching and learning

- New trends in educational research
- New trends in learning and teaching methods
- New trends in research methods
- Pedagogy, educational programs, and teaching
- Politics, good governance, and leadership in the educational sector
- Program design and development
- Promoting equality, diversity, and inclusion
- Psychological counseling and guidance in education
- Quality assurance/standards and accreditation
- Research and innovations in education
- Research ethics
- Right to an education
- Sustainable Educational Goals Related to Refugees
- Teacher education in the digital age
- The Possibility of Fundamental Changes in the Curriculum
- The role of parents in education
- The skills we need to thrive in a post-COVID-19 world
- Vocational education
- Ways to overcome the digital divide

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Abstract

The aim of this study was to examine the effects of self-regulated Jigsaw IV on mathematics achievement, self-efficacy beliefs, and mathematics anxiety among 5th-grade students. The pretest and post-test non-equivalent control group design was utilized in the study. The participants consisted of 40 fifth graders, half of them were assigned to the experimental group, and the other half were assigned to the control group. A traditional instruction was used in the control group whereas the experimental group received the instruction based on the self-regulated Jigsaw IV technique. The intervention lasted for six weeks. An academic achievement test, a mathematics anxiety-apprehension survey, and a self-efficacy belief scale were administered as the pretest and post-test. Based on the findings, the self-regulated Jigsaw IV technique was more effective in enhancing students' math achievement and self-efficacy beliefs compared to the conventional instruction. Additionally, the technique was found to be more effective in reducing mathematics anxiety. Therefore, the Jigsaw IV integrated with self-regulated strategies is recommended to be used in the learning process.

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Keywords: Mathematics education, Peer learning, Active learning, Classroom intervention, Jigsaw IV, Student motivation

Introduction

Identifying ways to educate qualified learners is one of the contemporary concerns of education throughout the world. Therefore, students' responsibility for their own learning and active participation in the educational process is emphasized in educational settings. The cooperation among learners has positive effects on learning domains (Bandura, 1986, 1993; Dewey, 1958, 1963; Slavin, 1995; Vygotsky, 1978). Some essential skills such as problem-solving, taking responsibility, critical thinking, and analytical thinking are emphasized in the curricula. Also, teachers need to support the development of these skills in students with the help of using effective methods. One of these methods is cooperative learning, which positively affects students' academic success, interpersonal communication, and self-esteem (Johnson & Johnson, 1999, 1989). Therefore, incorporating cooperative learning strategies into the classroom is essential for fostering these vital skills.

Cooperative Learning

Cooperative learning (CL), a concept in the field of education, has been recently reviewed in educational research and practice. CL is a strategy of instruction where there is a supportive environment among students during the learning process (Johnson & Johnson, 1988, 1994; Kagan, 1994; Slavin, 1980). Referring to the views of Olsen and Kagan (1992), CL is a kind of classroom exercise in that learners construct gathered information on their own, and they are responsible for both their comprehension and the other learners. They

also described CL as a planned activity conducted with groups of learners, and each of them is responsible for their learning process and contributes to the learning of other team members. Likewise, Johnson and Johnson (2002) stated that CL is an educational approach in which each student intends to enhance both his learning and the learning of the whole team. Vermette (1998) described CL as a heterogeneous team activity, and each team member is responsible for their understanding and team-mates' understanding. According to Artz and Newman (1993), group students do not sit together in problem-solving, act independently of one another, or assume responsibility for a single student. Cuseo (1992) identifies CL as a learner-centered instructional process in which heterogeneous groups of three to five students study interactively on determined objectives. Each learner is responsible for their performance, and the teacher only scaffolds the groups. The cooperative learning process is that each learner designs their learning processes by defining their ideas, discussing a subject, and generating solutions (Kuuk & Arslan, 2020). In light of these explanations, CL strategy may be considered as a tool to build significant interactions among students that improve their academic success and social interaction.

Referring to the views of Johnson and Johnson (1991), CL consists of five fundamental elements: (a) positive interdependence, in which each team member engages to manage the team objective; (b) individual accountability, in which the whole team has responsibility for both the team members learning and their learning for the benefit of group objective; (c) face-to-face promotive interaction, in which group members show respect, tolerance, and support each

other while working on the task; (d) interpersonal and small group skills, in which students possess teamwork skills required to accomplish taskwork; (e) group processing, in which students discuss the development of the group and the adjustments if required. Students are aware that when other students in the group reach their learning goals, they will also achieve their own learning goals (Arslan & Yanpar, 2006). Besides, CL signifies both the development of each learner's learning skills and the promotion of their communicative and social experiences.

Thompson (1981) stated that CL creates a student-centered atmosphere in the classroom that helps learners show higher performance and decrease their anxiety level to complete the objectives of the team. Research reveals that a positive classroom climate lessens anxiety, defeats disagreement among learners, and strengthens their sense of efficacy to encourage them to interact with their peers (Adimora et al., 2015; Bierman, 2011; Fast et al., 2010). In contrast, a competitive classroom climate causes both more anxiety for learners and a less constructive learning environment (Johnson & Johnson, 1999). High anxiety serves as an opportunity if a task is remarkably easy. However, a high level of anxiety restricts performance when tasks are different and challenging (Johnson & Johnson, 1999). CL techniques encourage learners to lower anxiety levels (Batton, 2010; Lavasani & Khandan, 2011). Moreover, it scaffolds them to develop their skills, raise self-confidence, and reduce the anxiety that occurs when communicating (Crandall, 1999; Dörnyei, 1997). So, CL supports an atmosphere where emotional resilience and academic progress are nurtured through collaborative studies.

The Jigsaw Technique

The Jigsaw technique, developed by Aronson (1978), is one of the most well-known methods of CL. While some CL techniques blend cooperative, competitive, and individualistic exercises, others focus purely on cooperation. The original Jigsaw technique combines cooperative and individualistic practices and requires all learners to actively engage in the learning process for the benefit of themselves or their team (Johnson & Johnson, 1999). In Jigsaw II, adapted by Slavin (1980), there is competition among teams, and students become experts on specific subjects, sharing their knowledge with their home teams. Jigsaw III, adapted by Kagan (1986) from Gonzales and Guerrero's (1983) version, continues to build on these foundations. Jigsaw IV includes an introductory activity and two exams after both expert group and main group studies (Holliday, 2002). These variations of the Jigsaw technique demonstrate CL's effectiveness in fostering both individual and collaborative learning.

The Jigsaw IV

The Jigsaw IV developed by Holliday stands out from other Jigsaw techniques by incorporating an introductory activity and two separate mini-exams after the expert and main group studies (Holliday, 2000, 2002). The introductory activity at the beginning of Jigsaw IV helps prepare students for the lesson

and fosters their interest in the subject. Additionally, quizzes are introduced in the fourth and sixth stages to assess the accuracy of the expert sheets. A unique feature of Jigsaw IV is the optional ninth stage, which is included if re-teaching of the concept or material is necessary (Holliday, 2002). Jigsaw IV, which consists of nine stages, is applied as follows (Holliday, 2002);

In the first stage of Jigsaw IV, an introductory activity is carried out to prepare the students for the lesson and to foster their interest in the subject before starting the lesson. In the second stage, students are given expert sheets including the expertise questions, and answer them in their home groups. Then, the students leave their home groups and go to the expert groups with these sheets. Expertise groups are formed from students who answer the same expert questions. Each member of the group works on the same topic. In the third stage, students are expected to specialize in their subjects and agree on the solution to questions and problems. In the fourth stage, a quiz is conducted to check whether the expert group students learned the subject accurately. In the fifth stage, students return to their home groups and teach them the subject they learned. In the sixth stage, a quiz is applied to check whether students comprehend the subject accurately. In the seventh stage, the subjects studied are reviewed comprehensively with the whole class. The eighth stage is where students take individual responsibility and have an individual quiz. The ninth stage is not compulsory and includes re-training if it is decided that there is a poorly understood subject based on the test results.

The Self-Regulated Jigsaw IV

Arslan (2011) suggested that the Jigsaw IV technique can be supported by self-regulation skills by teaching students how to define individual subjects as learning goals, how to follow a process in achieving this goal, and how to evaluate the process and the result. During cooperative learning, students' determination of goals, distribution of tasks to achieve these goals, and evaluation of whether they achieve their goals show that they use their self-regulation skills in this process (Arslan, 2011). Özdemir and Arslan (2016) stated that the self-regulated Jigsaw IV is a practical and efficient technique to improve student achievement. Also, the study of Özdemir and Arslan (2016) conducted on higher education students, is the first publication in Turkey, to apply the self-regulated Jigsaw IV.

Aim of the Study

Cooperative learning (CL) has been widely applied in various educational contexts, ranging from primary schools to higher education. Although the literature highlights CL's positive effects on various learning domains, there is a significant gap in applying the Jigsaw IV technique specifically in mathematics education. This study aims to address this gap by examining the effects of the self-regulated Jigsaw IV technique on mathematics achievement, self-efficacy, and mathematics anxiety in 5th-grade students.

This study is essential because it examines the potential of the self-regulated Jigsaw IV technique to enhance student

performance in mathematics. This study aims to evaluate the impact of self-regulated Jigsaw IV on 5th graders' academic achievement, self-efficacy, and mathematics anxiety by integrating self-regulation strategies into the Jigsaw IV model.

Method

Design

In this study, a non-equivalent control group pretest-posttest design was used. Instruction based on curriculum was carried out in the control group, whereas the experimental group participated in instruction utilizing the self-regulated Jigsaw IV technique.

Participants

The study involved 40 fifth-grade students from a public school in Bartın Province. These participants were equally assigned into two groups: an experimental group, which engaged with the self-regulated Jigsaw IV instructional method, and a control group, which was exposed to the standard-traditional curriculum.

Instruments

An academic achievement test, a mathematics anxiety-apprehension survey, and a self-efficacy belief scale were used as the measurement instruments.

Academic Achievement Test

The test is developed to measure the competencies of students regarding the subject of natural numbers. Initially, 40 multiple-choice items were formulated, ensuring content validity through careful consideration. The question development process incorporated the expertise of two curriculum and instruction specialists along with three middle school mathematics teachers. The psychometric analyses of the test were performed using the ITEMAN software. Based on the analyses, 10 items with discrimination values below 0.30 were removed from the test. Consequently, the final form contained 30 multiple-choice items. The Cronbach Alpha of the final form was 0.91, indicating high reliability.

Self-efficacy Scale

The self-efficacy belief scale, a component of the Motivated Strategies for Learning Questionnaire (MSLQ) originally developed by Pintrich et al., (1993), was adapted into Turkish by Karadeniz vd. (2008). The original form consists of 81 items rated on a 7-point Likert scale and does not include reverse-scored items. During the Turkish adaptation, 5 items were removed. For the Turkish version of the MSLQ, item-total correlations range from .58 to .15 for the motivation dimension and from .68 to .19 for the learning strategies dimension.

Mathematics Anxiety-Apprehension Survey

The Mathematics Anxiety-Apprehension Survey (MAAS), developed by Ikegeli (1998) for middle school students, was adapted into Turkish by Özdemir and Gür (2011). The MAAS consists of 20 items. The Cronbach Alpha of the MAAS was reported as 0.91.

Process

In this study, the control group received instruction based on the standard curriculum while the experimental group underwent an intervention using the self-regulated Jigsaw IV method. Initially, daily lesson plans targeting the objectives of the 'natural numbers' unit were prepared. Students in the experimental group were then informed about the self-regulated Jigsaw technique, which included detailed instructions on course design and necessary preparations. The intervention was divided into a pretreatment phase and a posttreatment phase, spanning a total duration of six weeks.

Data Analysis

The pretest and post-test scores for both the experimental and control groups were found to be normally distributed. First, independent samples t-tests for each outcome variable were conducted to evaluate the initial comparability of the two groups. To examine whether there were significant differences between the experimental and control groups in terms of changes from pretest to post-test scores in academic achievement, self-efficacy beliefs, and anxiety, three independent samples t-tests were conducted. To ascertain the effect size of the differences observed between these scores, Cohen's d values were calculated (Cohen, 1988).

Results

Comparison of Pretest Scores

The independent samples t-tests on the pretest scores indicated that there were no statistically significant differences between the experimental and control groups at the beginning of the study. The results were as follows: For mathematics achievement, $t(38) = -.399, p = .692$; for self-efficacy, $t(38) = .522, p = .605$; for mathematics anxiety, $t(38) = 1.595, p = .120$.

Comparison of Pretest Posttest Difference Scores on Mathematics Achievement

The pretest and post-test difference scores on math achievement were computed for the control group and the experimental group. Then, an independent samples t-test on the difference scores was conducted to examine whether the differences in scores were the same between experimental and control groups. The analysis demonstrated that the mean of the difference scores in math achievement for the students in the experimental group ($M=15.15, SD=3.05$) was higher compared to the control group ($M=12.10, SD=3.45$). An independent t-test yielded a statistically significant difference

between the two groups in favor of the experimental group ($t(38) = 2.96, p < 0.05$), with a large effect size (Cohen's $d = 0.80$). Thus, it can be concluded that the use of the self-regulated Jigsaw IV technique significantly enhanced students' mathematics achievement.

Comparison of Pretest Posttest Difference Scores on Self-Efficacy

The mean of differences between pretest and post-test self-efficacy scores of the experimental group ($M=1.42, SD=0.90$) exceeded that of the control group ($M=0.24, SD=0.32$). In other words, the increase in self-efficacy scores for students in the experimental group was higher than the increase in scores for students in the control group. The independent t-test analysis indicated a statistically significant difference between the groups ($t(38) = 5.54, p < 0.05$), associated with a large effect size (Cohen's $d = 1.75$). Therefore, we conclude that the self-regulated Jigsaw IV technique had a positive impact on students' self-efficacy beliefs.

Comparison of Pretest Posttest Difference Scores on Mathematics Anxiety Scores

The analysis of mathematics anxiety scores revealed that the mean difference score of the experimental group ($M=0.51, SD=0.54$) was higher than that of the control group ($M=0.08, SD=0.12$). The independent t-test showed a statistically significant difference in favour of the experimental group; $t(38) = 3.34, p < 0.05$, with a large effect size of Cohen's $d = 1.10$. In other words, the analysis showed that the decrease in mathematics anxiety scores from pretest to post-test in the experimental group is greater than the decrease observed in the control group. Thus, it can be implied that the implementation of the self-regulated Jigsaw IV technique helped students regulate their mathematics anxiety levels.

Discussion, Conclusion, and Recommendations

This study was conducted to determine the effect of the self-regulated Jigsaw IV on students' academic achievement, mathematics anxiety, and self-efficacy beliefs in mathematics class. The results showed that the academic achievement levels of the study group increased significantly compared to the pre-implementation period. This finding is consistent with the outcomes from some previous studies (Gillies, 2006; Hooper et al., 1989; Johnson et al., 2000; Thurston et al., 2010). The results obtained showed that teaching mathematics to students through the self-regulated Jigsaw IV is significantly more effective in academic achievement than teaching through traditional practices.

The results also revealed that the self-efficacy beliefs of the study group enhanced significantly compared to the pre-intervention phase. The theory of self-efficacy formed by Bandura (1977) is one of the vital determinants of the learning process. Dependently, mathematics self-efficacy is a belief in one's ability to achieve mathematics-related tasks (Schunk, 1991). The theory of Ames (1984) supported that the integration of CL into the classroom environments could have

positive outcomes related to students' mathematics self-efficacy beliefs. Likewise, Ames (1984) assisted in the view that the practice of CL increased the mathematics self-efficacy of learners. Similarly, Nichols and Miller (1993) added that CL supports learners in developing math efficacy. As seen, CL implementation positively affects students' self-beliefs which is related to successfully performing tasks in mathematics. The results revealed that teaching mathematics to students through the self-regulated Jigsaw IV is significantly more effective for the development of self-efficacy beliefs than teaching through traditional practices. When the self-efficacy pretest scores of the experimental group were controlled, a significant difference was found in favor of the final test score averages of the experimental group. Therefore, the self-regulated Jigsaw IV applied in the experimental group was found to be effective in increasing students' self-efficacy beliefs. This finding was supported by previous studies (Şengül & Katrancı, 2014; Torchia, 2012). In conclusion, it is understood that the present study and the findings of other studies indicate that the use of the self-regulated Jigsaw IV may be more effective in enhancing self-efficacy beliefs of students than traditional practices in the teaching process.

The results further demonstrated that the mathematics anxiety levels of the study group decreased significantly compared to the pre-implementation period. Studies support that CL practices foster the development of positive attitudes toward the subject area and reduce anxiety (Batton, 2010; Dees, 1991; Kulik & Kulik, 1979). The results revealed that teaching mathematics to students through the self-regulated Jigsaw IV is significantly more effective in decreasing mathematics anxiety than teaching through traditional practices.

The study concluded that self-regulated Jigsaw IV may be a more effective way to enhance the self-efficacy beliefs of students than traditional practices in the teaching process. Also, the integration of CL techniques into the educational process reduces mathematics anxiety. In conclusion, CL through the jigsaw technique is a useful tool to foster students' achievements, self-efficacy beliefs, and to reduce their anxiety in mathematics. So, it is recommended that the Jigsaw IV technique embodied with self-regulated strategies may be used frequently in classrooms.

Limitation of the Study

This study has a few significant limitations. Firstly, the intervention was specifically designed for mathematics. Future research could benefit from applying the self-regulated Jigsaw IV technique in various academic areas to see if similar outcomes are achieved.

Additionally, the study was limited to fifth-grade students. It would be valuable for future studies to include participants from sixth through eighth grades. This broader approach would help determine whether the observed effects are consistent across different educational levels and enhance the overall generalizability of the results.

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